

Amendments to the Specification

Please delete the paragraph inserted in line 3 on page 4, and substitute the following paragraph therefor:

Referring now to Fig. 4, a tufting machine is indicated generally at 10. The method of the present invention pertains to the operation of the tufting machine 10 or any other needlebar tufting machine. The tufting machine 10 has needles 12 and 14 which are supported by a needlebar or by needlebars, designated by legend. The needlebar(s) is/are slidably supported on a rod 16 for lateral movement, as indicated by an arrow, with respect to backing sheet material BSM. The rod 16 is connected to a needlebar driver 18 which is operable to move the needlebar(s) and the needles 12 and 14, between a top dead center position (not shown) and a bottom dead center position (shown in Fig. 4). A looper or loopers and/or a hook or hooks is/are reciprocated by a driver 20 between a retracted position (shown in Fig. 4) and an extended position (not shown). The tufting machine 10 also comprises a knife or knives, designated by legend. Tufting machines are known but, according to the method of the present invention, the motion of the needlebar(s) and of the looper(s)/hook(s) is varied from the prior art to improve the operation of the tufting machine.